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BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

World Commission on Culture and Development

Note by the Secretariat

At the request of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the annexed letter dated 13 December 1995 from the Chairman of the World Commission on Culture and Development to the Secretary-General is made available to the Economic and Social Council for its information.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 13 December 1995 from the Chairman of the World Commission on Culture and Development to the Secretary-General

I was so sorry that I did not have the pleasure of seeing you again on the occasion of the recent presentation of our Commission's report on creative diversity to the United Nations General Assembly. Allow me, however, to express to you again, on behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf, our sincerest thanks for the unflagging support which you have given to our work and for the warm welcome you extended to us when the Commission met at United Nations Headquarters.

The presentation of our report is, however, but the first stage in our activities. We must now turn our efforts to effectively implementing the report's recommendations; these recommendations have already aroused keen interest within the international community.

At this stage, the assistance of the United Nations, one of the founders of our Commission, is indispensable. We cannot help but be encouraged by the attention which you yourself are giving to the issues of culture and development; as demonstrated by the publication of your Agenda for Development, these issues are becoming increasingly important at this time and we are convinced that we will be able to count in future, as we have done in the past, on the precious collaboration of your staff. We should be grateful if you could draw the attention of the heads of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to the importance of our Commission's follow-up work and to the role that they might be called upon to play in helping us achieve our objectives.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Isar, has also established promising contacts with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development; the head of that Department, Mr. Nitín Desai, has assured us of the technical cooperation of his staff. On their advice, arrangements are being made to have our report included on the agenda of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session so that our recommendations may be brought to the attention of the Committee responsible for economic and social affairs (the Third Committee) as early as 1996.

We are also counting on the continued contribution of Mr. Pierre Fabian, an official of the Department of Public Information, who you kindly made available to the Commission in 1993 and whose presence during the follow-up stage will help to promote our activities and the image of the United Nations in the international media. I am, moreover, convinced that other ties will be established in future between the World Commission and the United Nations thanks to your kind attention.

We will certainly keep you informed of our progress in mobilizing the main actors of civil society in our efforts to underscore the importance of the human dimension of development on this the eve of the twenty-first century.

(Signed) Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
President